



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, Putney

Vision: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish

Mission: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian faith

Values: Compassion • Endurance • Thankfulness

Nursery: Half-Termly Letter to Parents

Spring Term 1, January 2024

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

A very happy New Year and warm welcome back from the Nursery team! We are so pleased with how the children have returned to Nursery. We would also like to welcome our new children and their families that have joined Nursery this week! We're also very excited to welcome Miss Winter to the Nursery team!

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum covers a child's whole development across 7 areas: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Expressive Art and Design; and Understanding the World.

Each half term we choose a theme for our learning across all areas of the curriculum. The theme for our learning this half term is TRADITIONAL TALES.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

PSED underpins all of our learning in Nursery and is broken into three strands Self-Regulation, Managing Self and Relationships. These areas are continually being taught and modelled to the children throughout the day in Nursery and adapted to individual children's needs. Our focus for PSED for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals.' This will include developing a positive attitude (towards learning), staying motivated when doing something challenging, keeping going when something is difficult, working well with others and helping them to achieve their goals.

The class will continue to develop and learn how to look after themselves (Managing Self), going to the toilet independently, putting their coats, hats and gloves on independently and look after their things - these skills take a lot of practise! Please support your child by practising these skills at home and **sending your child into Nursery in uniform that supports independence wherever possible.**

Physical Development

The children will continue to focus on developing their gross and fine motor skills. Through a range of physical games, the children will develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. They will have repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with play dough, small construction, arts, crafts and using small tools, encouraging the children to develop proficiency, control and confidence with their fine motor skills. Nursery will take part in a PE session on Wednesday (first half of the week) and Friday (second half of the week). Nursery do not need to have a separate PE kit for this.

Communication and Language

The children will continue to develop their listening, understanding and speaking skills through the classroom environment, interaction with others and specific activities - this happens all the time in Nursery! As part of our class focus we will do a lot of learning around traditional tales and retelling stories in various ways. We have started the term by discussing our experiences of the theatre, plays and puppets. Our reading and puppet area (in the

classroom) will provide lots of opportunities to retell stories and experiences. Do talk to your children about any experiences of storytelling, the theatre or puppets they have, so they can share their knowledge. To support the children's storytelling, we will be focusing our learning around three different traditional tales, as detailed further on.

Week beginning 15nd January: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Week beginning 22th January: The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Week beginning 29st January: The Gingerbread Man

Week beginning 5th February: The Three Little Pigs

Literacy

Through our learning around Traditional Tales (and other high-quality texts) the class will be developing an awareness about the five key concepts of print. The five key concepts of print are: that print has meaning, print can have different purposes, we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom, the names of the different parts of a book and page sequencing. During our phonics sessions the children will be continuing to develop awareness of sounds and rhythms, distinguish between sounds and to remember patterns of sound. We provide the children with many opportunities to write and mark-make in the classroom, a precursor to writing. Depending on the children's starting points, we will be focusing on writing children's names this term, building on their fine motor skills. We will work on the tripod grip when holding a pencil. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and write their name, in lower case letters, at home too!

Mathematics

The children will be encouraged to investigate number and shape through a variety of activities each day. Our number focus this half term will be to make comparisons between different quantities, using words such as "the same", "more", "less" and "fewer". This can be a surprisingly difficult skill, which needs lots of practice! We will continue focus on one-to-one correspondence and cardinality when counting different amounts of objects. In our Shape, Space and Measure learning we will be using more vocabulary to describe measures, such as size and weight and learning to order objects by size.

Understanding the World and RE

We will be continuing to learn about lots of the people who help us in our community during this term - the children are still fascinated by this topic! If you have a job, such as a police officer, firefighter, doctor or dentist, and would be able to come and talk about it to the classes they would absolutely love it! Previous years have learnt a lot! Do email the Nursery team if you would be able volunteer your time. We will focus more on the technology around us in the Nursery this term, interacting with keyboards, phones and other role-play appliances. We will also be cooking more regularly now we are settled.

Our half termly RE focus is "Who Cares for this Special World?" where we will be thinking more about Bible stories and what they tell us about God, using "The Jesus Storybook Bible".

Expressive Art and Design

We have seen some incredible displays of imagination by the children so far! This half term we will plan imaginative play opportunities and a range of art projects linked to our theme 'Traditional Tales,' such as creating puppets, mask and paintings of characters from the stories. We will give the children time to paint characters and objects, focussing on drawing shapes then colouring them in to build up their picture. We will be continuing to develop the children's musical awareness through singing known songs, as well as learning new ones and playing singing games. By putting actions to the words, the children will develop their sense of pulse, and we will explore more of the musical elements, for example tempo and dynamics, in the songs. They will be exploring how to create different sounds with musical instruments and how to express themselves through movement by listening to music.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern, our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Kerry Dunford. Her contact email is: kdunford.212@lgflmail.org. For any safeguarding concerns outside of school hours please contact the

Wandsworth Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Their contact details are: Telephone: 020 8871 6622 or e-mail: MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS FOR NURSERY

Uniform can be ordered and collected from the office (or school website). Each child will also need a named bag for their peg containing a **complete change of clothes** inside - spare shoes are often needed too in case of an 'accident' or wet play - please include these too. This should be kept in school at all times and will go home only when it is needed. **It is very important that ALL of your child's clothes are labelled, including shoes, socks and coats! They all look the same to us!**

As the weather gets colder please ensure your child remembers appropriate clothing; we spend a lot of time outside. Please make sure all hats, gloves and scarves are all clearly labelled. If you have any of Nursery's spare clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible - we are missing quite a bit from last term - we are completely out of socks!

Please send your child into school with:

- a labelled water bottle that they can drink from independently - EVERYDAY
- a book bag once a week - WEDNESDAY ONLY

Lunch - Food and Allergies

St Mary's is a healthy school, so we ask that children do not bring in chocolate to school, or in their packed lunches. We will have to remove these items until the end of the day.

Another important reminder: **PLEASE ENSURE NO NUTS OR SESAME ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.** We are a nut free school. Please remember nuts and sesame are often in cereal bars, pesto, hummus and on/in bread/bagels etc. Always check the label before sending food into school.

Home Learning Arrangements

Home Learning will be set on a Wednesday and will be due the following Wednesday.

There will be weekly home learning as follows:

- **Reading:** Every child will take home a fiction or non-fiction text that your child will choose weekly when visiting the school library. Please make sure the book is kept safely in your child's reading folder with their reading record card. Please fill in the reading card weekly and return the folder and book on the following Wednesday. Please only bring these books in on WEDNESDAY!
- We have displayed the family photos from last half term in our role-play area. If you have not already sent in a photo please could you send one in via email and we can add it to the display. The children have really enjoyed looking and talking about these photos.

Communication

If there are important messages e.g. a query for the Nursery team, or letting us know about pick up arrangements **please email classnursery@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk before 9am: these will be checked once a day.** **A message after this should be emailed or phoned into the school office.** If the child is going home with someone not known to the Nursery staff we must be notified in advance otherwise we cannot release your child until we have spoken to you. More information is in the Nursery Handbook.

We will also send important information back via the email address. Please make sure this email address is saved so it does not go into your junk folder.

Reminders

- Thank you so much for those who brought in the family photograph and voluntary contribution of £40 for the year's craft, gardening and cooking supplies. It is not too late to give us either of these and they would be really appreciated: any money left over will be used to support the children's learning.

Keep in the loop with social media

The school actively uses two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PutneySMPS> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PutneySMPS/>

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us or to email me via the class email.

Best wishes

Alison Davidson, Kerry Dunford, Marisa Winter and Caroline Miller